

3/26/07

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I ventured off on the Geology trip. I knew this would be very exciting and challenging for me. I teach about these topics, but do not have a degree in geology, therefore I was thrilled to be able to be out in the field with scientists gaining more than just surface knowledge about fossils, volcanoes and the rock cycle in general.

The time scale of these events is so hard to fathom. I touched stromatolites that were 1.6 billion years old. Working with Chris McKay and Deb was wonderful. They have an ability to take the science they are doing and explain it to us in ways we can easily understand. We all sensed their excitement with the work they do and were in awe with the majestic landscape and how the



Earth is still changing even to this day.

The highlight of the 400 mile trip was learning about the formation of lava tubes. We went down into the Cima lava tube to study this as an analog for human habitation on Mars. We were able to see various forms of lava and lava flows with ages ranging from 500,000 years old to 150,000 years old.

We traveled further down the road to see the Kelso sand dunes. The sight was amazing with the setting sun showing all the visible signs of wind erosion and the temporary scarring that is visible on the dunes.

After a long AWESOME day, I have a mind full of Earth's beauty and power and a wealth of knowledge and photographs to bring back into the classroom. I cannot wait to see what tomorrow will bring!

